



**Chief's Update
June 23, 2015**

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

For most who have dedicated their lives to a career in public service, it becomes commonplace to be asked by others, "When do you plan to retire?" This is not a question to be taken lightly throughout one's career – the final decision is based on a variety of factors. After nearly 36 years of proud service to our community as a Tempe Police Officer – 9 years as Chief - I have decided to retire; my last day is scheduled to be **December 1, 2015**.

Having been able to serve the community in which I was raised - and raised my own family - has been a true honor. Beginning my career as a young patrol officer in August of 1979, I never imagined that I would rise through the ranks to become Chief of Police and lead what I believe to be the best police agency in the US. To say that my career was rewarding would be an understatement as not only was it rewarding, but a true blessing.

I would like to thank the citizens of Tempe, the men and women of the Tempe Police Department, the chiefs of our partner agencies, and the many elected officials who - over the years - have been supportive of my efforts to keep our community safe. I'm so very proud to have had the opportunity to serve with each of you and I wish each of you safe and rewarding careers.

Though I am announcing my retirement today, there is still much work to be done. Having committed a lifetime of work to making Tempe PD the very best, and an organization set up for success, I will be working closely with PD Executive and Command Staff - as well as our City leaders - to ensure a smooth transition for the Tempe Police Department's next Chief of Police.

In closing, please continue on with your hard work and professionalism, so that our community remains safe and our organization healthy.

Stay safe,

Tom Ryff
Chief of Police